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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, You have been faithful to help us when we have lifted our hearts in prayer. Thank You for Your providential care of this legislative body. Open the eyes and hearts of our lawmakers so that they will know and do Your will. Lord, guide them in the way they should go, providing them with wisdom to solve challenging problems by depending on Your guidance. Help them to think of each other as fellow Americans seeking Your best for our Nation rather than enemy parties seeking to defeat each other. Replace distrust in each other with a deep commitment to creative compromise.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 26, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A.

COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are currently considering the motion to concur in the House message to accompany the FDA bill postcloture. We hope to work something out on that so that we can move to it early evening.

The first hour of debate this morning will be equally divided and controlled, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

At 11:30 the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Robin Rosenbaum to be a district judge for the Southern District of Florida.

At noon there will be a rollcall vote on confirmation of the Rosenbaum nomination.

The Senate will recess today from 12:30 to 2:15, as we normally do on Tuesdays, for our weekly caucus meetings.

At 2:15 there will be 6 hours 15 minutes remaining on the motion to concur in the House message with respect to the FDA bill. We hope that a significant amount of time can be yielded back and that we can complete action on the bill today.

There is an all-Senators briefing at 5 o'clock. We are going to continue—that time will run. We are not going to recess during that period of time. That will be in the classified room down in the Visitor Center.

We have accomplished a lot. Everyone knows how grateful I am to Senators STABENOW and ROBERTS for working their way and our way through that very difficult farm bill.

We are watching very closely the great work of Senator BOXER, Senator INHOFE, the Finance Committee, the Commerce Committee, and the Banking Committee on helping us work through the highway bill. There is a possibility that we can get that bill done. I think the chances today are better than 50-50 that we can get a bill done, but we are still looking at Speaker BOEHNER to help us get that over the finish line. So we will see what happens on that.

As I have indicated, the FDA bill—we will complete that tonight. That is a very important accomplishment for us.

We have the student loan issue, and we are working on that. We hope to get that done soon. I think there is a general feeling that we have worked out a compromise on that that is acceptable, with the help of Senator BAUCUS, Senator HARKIN, and others. JACK REED, of course, has led the charge on that for some time.

I have talked about the highway bill. We need to get that done.

The remaining issue is flood insurance, and we are doing fine on flood insurance, except I was told last night that one of the Republican Senators wants to offer an amendment—listen to this one—wants to offer an amendment on when life begins. I have been very patient in working with my Republican colleagues and allowing relevant amendments on issues, and sometimes we even do nonrelevant amendments but, really, on flood insurance, are we going to have to start dealing as we did with the highway bill for weeks and weeks with contraception? Now we have another person who wants to deal with when life begins.

I don't understand what this is all about, but I want everyone to know that this flood insurance bill is extremely important. The big pushers of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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